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A few examples of the types of linking agents which may be used to link to both the semiconductor nanocrystal (or to a glass coating on the nanocrystal) and to the organic affinity molecule in the probe are illustrated in the table below, it being understood that this is not intended to be an exhaustive list:

Linking AgentStructureName

N-(3-aminopropyl)3-mercapto-benzamide

3-aminopropyl-trimethoxysilane

3-mercaptopropyl-trimethoxysilane

3-maleimidopropyl-trimethoxysilane

3-hydrazidopropyl-trimethoxysilane

It should be further noted that a plurality of polymerizable linking agents may be used together to form an encapsulating net or linkage around an individual nanocrystal (or group of